

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 03216 050734Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 CPR-01 INR-07

A-01 /040 W

-----051259Z 010849 /41

R 050643Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7979

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CZ

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

REF: A. STATE 94166; B. BUDAPEST 1429 (NOTAL)

1. LAST YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING MY TENURE HERE, THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR SENT INVITATIONS FOR A RECEPTION "ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE HOLIDAY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC." I WAS OUT OF TOWN ON MAY 7, HOWEVER, AND COULD NOT ATTEND. I SENT HIM A BRIEF NOTE REGRETTING MY UNAVOIDABLE ABSENCE AND EXTENDING MY CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NATIONAL DAY.

2. THE CHANGE IN PHRASING WAS THE RESULT OF A BOYCOTT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK RECEPTION IN 1975 BY THE NATO AMBASSADORS, WHICH FOLLOWED THE ABSENCES OF MOST OF THEM IN 1974. (IN 1974, I LET THE AMBASSADOR KNOW THAT I WOULD NOT COME SO LONG AS THE INVI-
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 03216 050734Z

TATION INCLUDED A REFERENCE TO "LIBERATION BY THE SOVIET ARMY.")

3. THIS YEAR AGAIN, THE PHRASING AVOIDS MENTION OF "LIBERATION BY THE SOVIET ARMY" AND IS RESTRICTED TO THAT GIVEN IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH ONE.

4. I HAD PLANNED NOT TO ATTEND THE RECEPTION BECAUSE I WILL

BE BUSY WITH OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS. I WAS GOING TO SEND MY CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEAGUE A NOTE SIMILAR TO THAT OF LAST YEAR'S, INFORMING HIM ADDITIONALLY THAT DCM BROWN WOULD ATTEND AND REPRESENT ME.

5. WHEN I SAW THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR MAY 3 AT THE NETHERLANDS NATIONAL DAY, I BEGAN TO EXPLAIN WHY I WOULD BE ABSENT. THE CZECHOSLOVAK, WHO WAS FLANKED BY OUR ROMANIAN AND BULGARIAN COLLEAGUES, IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO EXPOSTULATE, COMPLAINING THAT, FOR "REASONS I DO NOT UNDERSTAND," I HAD NOT ATTENDED HIS RECEPTIONS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS. WHILE GOOD-HUMORED THROUGHOUT, IT WAS CLEAR HE WAS TRYING TO TELL ME THAT, DESPITE THE CHANGE IN WORDING OF THE INVITATION, HE FELT I WAS STILL CHOOSING NOT TO ATTEND FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

6. I TERMINATED OUR CONVERSATION AMICABLY BY TELLING HIM THAT I WOULD ATTEND.

7. COMMENT: THE LESSON I DRAW FROM THIS IS THE COMPLETE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATO BOYCOTT AND THE GREAT STORE THE CZECHOSLOVAKS SET BY OUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS RECEPTION. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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NNN

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